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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES

Summary of 2014 Initiatives Adopted July 24, 2013

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
BVS 2014-01	That the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) create a staff development plan to serve as an effective management tool to recruit, hire, train, and most importantly, retain Benefits Section staff. Based on this plan, DVS should identify the necessary funding to implement the plan in Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016 and submit a supporting budget request to the Governor and General Assembly.
BVS 2014-02	That the Governor and General Assembly authorize two additional positions for the state veterans cemeteries in Fiscal Year 2015.
BVS 2014-03	That the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation effecting a very limited change to the Code of Virginia in regards to the residency requirements of the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP). The requested change would expand eligibility for benefits under the VMSDEP to the qualified survivors and dependents of recently separated or retired military service members who do not meet current VMSDEP residency requirements but who meet all other requirements. These veterans, when they were on active duty, may not have been a bona fide domiciliary of the Commonwealth of Virginia for tax purposes, but have had a long-term physical presence in the Commonwealth because they were assigned to a duty station in Virginia. These new veterans have remained in Virginia after leaving active duty, and have taken the steps required to establish domicile. They have demonstrated their commitment to the Commonwealth by their long-term physical presence and by remaining in the state after leaving active duty.